

MRS. MARY ANN HENRY.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 311.]

MARCH 9, 1860.

Mr. BRABSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of Mrs. Mary Ann Henry, the widow of the late Captain Henry Henry, of the United States navy, praying Congress to grant her a widow's pension, beg leave to report :

That they have examined said memorial and the proof filed with it. Your committee have compared the memorial and proof with the report in this case made at the 1st session of the 35th Congress, and find the facts set forth in said report substantially correct, and therefore adopt said report as the report of this committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 12, 1858,*

Mr. FLORENCE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following report.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of Mrs. Mary Ann Henry, the widow of the late Captain Henry Henry, of the United States navy, praying Congress to grant her a widow's pension under the navy pension laws, beg leave to submit the following report :

That they have thoroughly examined the said memorial and the accompanying certificates, and they find the following to be a synopsis of the facts of the case :

That Captain Henry entered the naval service of the United States on the 11th of July, 1812, being appointed a sailing master by President Madison ; he took an active part in the war with Great Britain, being appointed to command in the gunboat flotilla under Captain Tarbell, and assisted in the defence of Craney island and of Norfolk. On account of his active services in the Chesapeake he was, in March, 1815, appointed an " acting lieutenant, and ordered to the command of the Torch, of the Algerine squadron," fitting out under Commo-

dore Stephen Decatur. It appears that Lieutenant Henry participated in all the operations against the Algerines, and the destruction of their piratical squadron; and Commodore Stewart testifies that his faithful and skilful discharge of his arduous duties placed him high in the estimation of that distinguished officer, Commodore Stephen Decatur. When peace was restored, Lieutenant Henry was transferred to the frigate *Constellation* by order of Commodore Bainbridge. It was while on this station, on the coast of Africa, from the exposure and arduous duties upon a station proverbially unhealthy that Captain Henry acquired the disease, "visceral congestion of the stomach and bowels," which has since, with the characteristic pertinacity of African fevers, clung to him through life, as Dr. Haller testifies; and the doctor quotes several medical authorities to show that malarious poisons, (the African fever being of that class,) once fairly fixed in the system, are never entirely got rid of, and qualify all subsequent attacks. He states that when called upon to attend Captain Henry, finding all his symptoms of a secondary character, he asked him if he were not suffering from an old disease; and he says most emphatically, that Captain Henry told him it was originally contracted on the coast of Africa; that, subsequently, he was again attacked with it at Rio de Janeiro some time after the first attack in Africa; and that he had been subjected to attacks of it ever since. In fact, Dr. Haller says, in his own words, that the history of his health, after his return from Africa, was a continued series of ups and downs. Dr. Haller, in his testimony under oath attached to the memorial, gives his unqualified opinion in the most emphatic terms, "that the disease which Captain Henry originally contracted in Africa was the means of inducing those derangements of the system which brought on the last attack, the immediate cause of his death."

In 1821, Lieutenant Henry sailed for the Pacific in the *Franklin*, 74, under the command of Commodore Stewart. Although his health was never fully restored, he served the whole cruise of three years, and returned in her. Dr. Haller testifies that Captain Henry told him he had the fever at Rio, and Commodore Stewart, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, a copy of which is attached to the original memorial, states, "that from the great exposure he was subject to, under his command, his health was materially impaired, so much so as to disqualify him for active duties for some years past."

It further appears that, in the month of February, 1839, while Lieutenant Henry was on duty at the naval rendezvous at Baltimore, Maryland, he was again attacked with the same disease, and so severely, that he was relieved from duty on the report of the surgeon of the station, Dr. Sproston, of the United States navy. Dr. Sproston's certificate, on file at the department, terms, it "hemorrhage of the stomach and bowels," precisely the same name applied to the disease of which he died, by Dr. Haller, thus identifying the disease of 1839 with that of 1857.

It further appears from the testimony of Captain Robert Ritchie, United States navy, who therein corroborated what Dr. Haller testifies to as having had from Captain Henry's own lips, that the said Henry has been subject to repeated attacks of the same disease, at intervals,

for many years back ; that after each attack his health would be so far recovered as to enable him to go through the ordinary routine of duty, but that the seeds of disease being implanted in his system, was liable at any time to break out in fresh attacks.

After a careful examination and review of the facts of this case, and the evidence brought forward to establish these facts, your committee have arrived at the following conclusion: That the disease of which Captain Henry died was originally contracted from exposure while on duty on the coast of Africa ; that it appears that Captain Henry has been repeatedly attacked with the same disease, at intervals, during his whole lifetime since, and that the last attack at Washington, in July last, which immediately preceded his death, was brought on by the mental and bodily excitement he had to undergo while attending the court of inquiry, and that, his constitution being broken down by repeated attacks, he sank under it. And your committee think that, in arriving at this conclusion, they are fully sustained by the testimony attached to this memorial and filed with the same ; and they, therefore, respectfully recommend that Congress direct the Commissioner of Pensions to inscribe the name of Mrs. Mary Ann Henry upon the roll of navy pensioners, as the widow of the late Captain Henry Henry, deceased.

Date of Captain Henry's orders and services.

July 10, 1812.—Appointed a sailing master in the United States navy, by President J. Madison, and ordered to the command of one of the gunboat flotilla, on the Chesapeake.

June 18, 1813.—Served under Captain Tarbell in the attack upon the two British frigates, Junon and Narcissus, and also in the defence of Craney island on the 21st.

March 17, 1815.—Appointed an acting lieutenant by Secretary Crowningshield, and ordered to the schooner Torch, one of the Algerine squadron, under the command of Commodore Decatur, bound to the north coast of Africa, and served until the close of the war. Suffered much from exposure to malaria, common on the coast of Africa.

October, 1816.—In the bay of Gibraltar ; transferred from the Torch to the frigate Constellation by order of Commodore Bainbridge.

January, 1817.—Returned to the United States by order of Commodore Chauncey.

March 5, 1817.—Appointed a lieutenant by President James Monroe.

April 14, 1818.—Ordered to the recruiting rendezvous at Norfolk, Virginia, and remained on this duty until ordered to "*Franklin*."

July 23, 1821.—Received orders to join the Franklin, 74, Commodore Stewart, at New York, bound for the Pacific.

August, 1821.—While *en route* to join the Franklin at New York, attacked in the city of Philadelphia with the fever, and was seriously ill for many days ; attended by Dr. Harris ; the yellow fever broke out at Norfolk a few days after Lieutenant Henry left there, and he doubtless carried it away with him.

October 11, 1821.—Lieutenant Henry sailed from New York in the Franklin, 74, Commodore Stewart, bound for the Pacific.

December, 1821.—Franklin at Rio de Janeiro,

February, 1822.—Franklin at Valparaiso.

September 26, 1822.—Lieutenant Henry was appointed by Commodore Stewart to the separate command of the despatch vessel "*Peruvian*."

February, 1823.—At Panama.

September 1824.—Lieutenant Henry returned home in the Franklin to New York.

November 5, 1826 —Ordered to the sloop-of-war Hornet.

December.—Detached from the same on account of health.

November 26, 1827.—Ordered to receiving vessel, New York.

December 14.—Detached from the same.

February 9, 1837.—Promoted to a commander by President Andrew Jackson.

February 7, 1839.—Commander Henry was ordered to the command of the rendezvous at Baltimore, and while on duty there had a severe hemorrhage of the stomach and bowels, and on the certificate of Dr. Sproston, United States navy, was detached from the same on the 26th March, on sick leave.

1843.—Commander Henry was ordered to the sloop-of-war Yorktown.

1843.—Commander Henry transferred from the Yorktown to the sloop-of-war Plymouth.

April 4, 1844.—Sloop-of-war Plymouth, Henry Henry, commander, sailed from Boston for the Mediterranean.

October 4, 1846.—The Plymouth, Captain Henry, arrived in New York.

February 27, 1847.—Promoted to a captain, United States navy.

September 13, 1855.—Captain Henry was placed on the "*reserved list*," on "*furlough pay*."

July 4, 1857.—Captain Henry went down to Washington to attend the court of inquiry.

July 9, 1857.—Attacked with hemorrhage, &c.

July 17, 1857.—Brought home to York, Pennsylvania.

July 26.—Captain Henry died this (Sunday) morning, at 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ a. m.

July 27.—Captain Henry buried this day.

Appendix to the foregoing report.

See letter marked "A," 17th March, 1815, from B. W. Crowninshield, Secretary of the Navy, appointing Henry Henry acting lieutenant, and ordering him to report to the commanding officer of the flying squadron for duty on board the schooner "*Torch*."

See letter marked "B," from Captain Charles Gordon, dated on board Constellation, at Carthage, September, 1815.

See letter from same, marked "C," on board same ship, at same place, dated 25th September, 1815.

See letter marked "D," dated 17th September, 1821, referring to a late attack of illness under which Lieutenant Henry had been suffering, the violence of which was such that his life was despaired of; this was shortly after his return from service in the African squadron, and was there contracted.

See letter marked "E," from Commodore Charles Stewart, dated off Quilea, on board United States ship Franklin, July 24, 1822, addressed to Lieutenant Henry, commanding the despatch boat.

See letter marked "F," dated Valparaiso, January 14, 1823, from Commodore Stewart to Lieutenant Henry, commanding despatch boat "Peruvian."

See letter marked "G," Valparaiso, March 23, 1823, to same.

See letter marked "H," dated Quilea, April 22, 1823, from same to same.

See letter marked "I," Valparaiso, July 12, 1823, from Charles Wilkes, jr., to Lieutenant Henry.

See letter marked "K," dated Bay of Callao, August 4, 1823, from Commodore Stewart to Lieutenant Henry, commanding "Peruvian."

See letter marked "L," dated Philadelphia, November 4, 1824, from Commodore Stewart.

See letter marked "M," from Fourth Auditor, dated November 18, 1824, allowing difference of compensation while commanding the despatch vessel "Peruvian" in the Pacific ocean.

See letters marked respectively, N, O, and P, and dated, respectively, 29th November, 1824, 10th December, 1824, and May 26, 1825, from the department, all in relation to the subject last above named, to Lieutenant Henry Henry.

See letter marked "Q," from Hon. Samuel L. Southard, Secretary of the Navy, to Lieutenant Henry, paying a high compliment to his professional experience and judgment, dated November 30, 1825.

See two letters on same sheet, marked "R," from Commodore Stewart, dated February 11, 1837, and addressed, respectively, to John C. Calhoun, and to Hon. William C. Rives, United States senators, recommending Lieutenant Henry for promotion, setting forth in strong colors the important and valuable services of Lieutenant Henry—that he possessed great discretion, sound judgment, an enterprising spirit, and skilful seamanship, &c.

See especially two letters marked "S," dated Baltimore, March 15, 1839; one from Captain Henry to Hon. J. K. Paulding, Secretary of the Navy, asking to be detached, because, as he says, he had ruptured a blood vessel, being the *fifth* time within *three* years, and the *third* within the last *seven* months, rendering him entirely unfit for any kind of duty. In this connexion Dr. George S. Sproston, surgeon Baltimore naval station, certifies as follows: I have lately attended you (Captain Henry) in an attack of most dangerous disease, (hemorrhage from the stomach and bowels.) On this certificate the Secretary detached Captain Henry on two months' sick leave.

See letter marked "T," dated March 10, 1842, from Commodore Stewart to the Hon. A. P. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy, in which he says of Captain Henry: "From his merits during the late war

with *Great Britain* and *Algiers*, he received early promotion ; but, by the very active service he performed, and on account of the great exposure he was subject to while under my command in the Pacific, his health suffered materially for some years past, and which had disqualified him for active duties."

This was in 1842, three years after he was attacked at Baltimore, as shown above.

See letter marked "U," from Hon. David Henshaw, Secretary of the Navy, ordering Commander Henry from the *Yorktown* to the *Plymouth*.

See letter marked "V," dated on frigate *Congress*, Rio, December 24, 1845, from Commodore R. F. Starkton to Hon. George Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy, in regard to the *Plymouth* and her commander.

See letter marked "W," from Hon. James Cooper, of Pennsylvania, dated July 25, 1851, to his excellency Millard Fillmore, President of the United States.

See certificate of Dr. T. N. Haller, of Pennsylvania, marked "X," who was his attending physician, and a letter from same, showing the connexion of the disease of which he died with his previous attacks, and tracing the inciting causes to his exposure to hardships in the service in unhealthy climates, marked "Y."

Certificates of Captain Robert Ritchie, dated October 7, 1857, certifying to his knowledge of the fact that Captain Henry had suffered from repeated attacks of hemorrhage of the bowels for several years, marked "Z."

Letters Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, dated November, 1814, from Commodore Perry, Commodore Rogers, Commodore Crane, and Commodore Strighton, all officers commanding the African squadron, testifying to the valuable services of Lieutenant Henry on the African station.

1857.—Certificate of marriage, marked No. "5."

With these changes and others, the Association has decided to publish the Journal of the American Medical Association, and to discontinue the publication of the American Medical Journal, the American Medical Review, and the American Medical News. The Journal of the American Medical Association will be published weekly, except on Sundays and public holidays, and will contain the same material as the American Medical Journal, the American Medical Review, and the American Medical News, plus the material from the American Medical Association's other publications, the American Medical Association's Bulletin, the American Medical Association's Proceedings, and the American Medical Association's Reports.

The Journal of the American Medical Association will be published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price of the Journal of the American Medical Association is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents. The Journal of the American Medical Association is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

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